United Nations PBC/4/OC/SR.1

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 April 2010

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission

Fourth session
Organizational Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 January 2010, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Muñoz ..... (Chile)
later: Mr. Wittig. ..... (Germany)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda

Election of the Chairperson and other officers

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

10-22070 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/4/OC/3)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Election of the Chairperson and other officers

2. **The Chairperson** said that after consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, he understood that the Committee was prepared to elect the new Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons and to confirm the chairs of the four country configurations. Consultations on the future Chairperson of the Working Group on Lessons Learned would continue under the new Chairperson.

3. *Mr. Wittig (Germany) was elected Chairperson for one year beginning 1 January 2010 by acclamation.*

4. *Mr. Palouš (Czech Republic) and Mr. Zinsou (Benin) were elected Vice-Chairpersons for one year beginning 1 January 2010 by acclamation.*

5. **The Chairperson** said he understood that the Committee had agreed that the Chairpersons of the country-specific configurations would represent members of either the Committee or the relevant country configuration which they would be chairing.

6. *Mr. Maurer (Switzerland) was elected Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on Burundi; Mr. Grauls (Belgium) was elected Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on the Central African Republic; Ms. Viotti (Brazil) was elected Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau; and Mr. McNee (Canada) was elected Chairperson of the country-specific configuration on Sierra Leone.*

7. **The Chairperson** said that much progress had been made since the Peacebuilding Commission's creation. In addition to the four countries on the Commission's agenda, the Peacebuilding Fund was assisting 15 countries through over 100 projects, with contributions from more than 40 countries. Through the country-specific configurations, the agenda countries had received concrete support even in difficult political circumstances.

8. To achieve greater coordination among the programmes and agencies involved in peacebuilding there had been regular consultations with the Commission's Chairperson and the Chairpersons of the country-specific configurations. The Commission's Chairperson had participated at Security Council and Economic and Social Council meetings.

9. To increase the visibility of the Commission, contacts had been made with personalities involved in the cause of peace: Yoko Ono had donated proceeds from downloads of the song "Give Peace a Chance" and a goodwill ambassador for peacebuilding would be designated in the near future.

10. The Commission's outreach efforts included regional seminars and discussions organized by Chile, Egypt and Ireland, enhancing its presence and strengthening its ties with capitals to reaffirm peacebuilding in national policies.

11. He had held meetings with officials of the Organization of American States, the European Union and the African Union to establish closer relations with regional and subregional organizations, the front-line partners in the peacebuilding process. There would be channels of communication and periodic meetings with the African Union.

12. The 2010 review of the Commission's founding resolutions must focus on substantive topics to allow an improvement of its performance and its service to post-conflict countries. The Commission's working methods must remain flexible to address the challenges facing the countries on its agenda.

13. The coordination between the Commission and the Security Council must be strengthened, to consolidate a more holistic concept of peacekeeping in parallel with peacebuilding. The Commission could assist more countries through a multi-level approach by which it could address specific areas that might require a less intense effort in post-conflict countries.

14. Despite the challenges ahead, he anticipated progress towards a stronger Commission with a new mandate to help societies that wanted to leave violence behind and reap the dividends of peace.

15. *Mr. Wittig (Germany) took the Chair.*

16. **The Chairperson** thanked the outgoing Chairperson for guiding the Commission in an exemplary manner and helping to strengthen the standing of the Peacebuilding Commission in the United Nations system and beyond. He emphasized the foundation that had been laid by the previous Chairpersons. The Peacebuilding Commission was an

essential component of the programme of reform and revitalization of the United Nations, set in motion by the World Summit in 2005. From the very start, Germany had supported the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission. The experience of the past three and a half years confirmed that the Commission certainly had the potential to fulfil its role as entrusted to it by the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Commission was the central pillar of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and its success would define in many ways the success of the United Nations as a whole. In its role of helping societies emerging from conflict and laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development, the Commission had indeed been entrusted with a crucial contribution to international peace and security.

17. Thus far, the Commission had achieved encouraging results in the countries on its agenda, thanks specifically to the incumbent and former Chairpersons of the country-specific configurations. Many of its future achievements would depend on the work of its country configurations and on a structured, well conceived and organized synergy between them and the Organizational Committee and the Working Group on Lessons Learned. The success of the Commission in the countries on its agenda would be measured by its ability to achieve tangible and sustainable results for the people on the ground.

18. The 2010 review process would provide an excellent opportunity to identify ways and means to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission and reinvigorate the vision behind the Commission. Against the backdrop of the global financial and economic situation which remained difficult, 2010 would be a critical year for the Commission. The goal must be to live up to the expectations of societies and populations emerging from conflict and to improve the contribution of the Commission to building hope for a better future. The 2010 review must result in a shared understanding of the Commission's purpose, role and functioning.

19. There were a number of key areas for further enhancing collective peacebuilding efforts. First, the Commission must serve as the platform for strategic policy coordination for international engagement in post-conflict countries. To that end, ways must be obtained to strengthen the role of the Organizational Committee in setting overarching policies and contributing to strategic coordination within the United Nations system.

20. Second, the Commission must play a central role in ensuring cohesion between political, security, development and humanitarian actors. In that regard, partnership and ongoing dialogue with the international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations and entities, as well as civil society, would be crucial. He intended to establish contacts with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in the very near future, followed by a visit to Washington, D.C.

21. Third, the Commission must provide a framework for mutual accountability under which the host Governments and the international community must be held to account against their agreed commitments. The engagement of donors with post-conflict countries must be guided by objectives identified by the host countries and the Commission within the overarching national peacebuilding strategy.

22. A fourth target would be to achieve a more structured and increased interaction between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission must help the Council to identify the synergies between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and do its best to ensure that countries on the Council's agenda benefited from the Commission's engagement at an early stage.

23. Fifth, the analysis of specific country situations by the Commission must lead to the identification of clear and limited priorities and the necessary resources must be delivered. The Commission must reflect on its working methods, be more flexible in dealing with country-specific situations, and consider how the monitoring of progress could be carried out effectively and how exit strategies could be developed.

24. Finally, best practices, relevant knowledge and lessons learned across country configurations as well as across the wider United Nations system and beyond must be cross-fertilized. In that regard, the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office must be enhanced and further clarified. It must be able to bring the United Nations system together, convene peacebuilding expertise and provide solid inputs to the deliberations of the Commission.

25. To attain those objectives, all concerned had to work together, not only within the Organizational

Committee but also within the Working Group on Lessons Learned and in the specific configurations. In the context of the 2010 review process, the Commission must also engage with a broader United Nations membership. However, the improvement of certain areas of the Commission's work could move ahead in parallel to the 2010 review process. The engagement of the Commission with countries on the agenda or those requesting advice was an ongoing process that could not be interrupted or delayed. The annual retreat of the Peacebuilding Commission, to which he would also like to invite the facilitators of the 2010 review, would be a good opportunity to reflect on the way forward.

26. The Commission needed to follow up on the report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) and on Security Council resolution 1889 (2009) on women and peace and security, and to establish closer cooperation with the African Union and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

27. **Ms. Cheng-Hopkins** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that she and her staff were reassured by the Chairperson's clear vision for 2010, a year that would be pivotal for the Commission, affording an opportunity to look back over the past three and a half years. The previous Chairperson had succeeded in raising the Commission's visibility, keeping the world's attention focused on what otherwise would have been forgotten emergencies, and had strengthened ties with regional groups. In addition, the continuity ensured by the confirmation of the country configuration Chairpersons in their posts boded well for greater successes.

28. She had met recently with the Secretary-General, who had provided frank guidance. Her Office would increase its support for the Commission and for the country configurations, without spending additional funds or creating a burdensome bureaucracy. Synergies with the Commission and the Fund would be developed, and she was pleased to report that initial criticism of the Fund had given way to recent praise on the part of donors.

29. **Mr. Palouš** (Czech Republic) said that the Commission must be able to coordinate peacebuilding efforts in the countries on its agenda, to attract the attention of the world community and to marshal additional resources. Peacebuilding consisted of many interlinked tasks, from security sector reform, promotion of human rights and the rule of law to sustainable economic and social development, including development of educational and health systems. Over the previous three years, the Commission had filled the space between peacekeeping efforts under the mandate of the Security Council and the sustainable development efforts supervised by the Economic and Social Council and other bodies. That was why the Czech Republic had been so interested in again becoming a member of the Peacebuilding Commission and actively participating in its endeavours. The success of the 2010 review process would depend upon the formulation of concrete proposals for further improving the work of the Commission, and must be measured only in terms of tangible differences on the ground, helping people who needed to be helped.

30. **Mr. De Rivière** (France) said that the Commission was playing a growing role in coordinating efforts in the four countries on its agenda. In 2010, it would be providing support for the elections in Burundi and the Central African Republic, and making renewed efforts to reform the security sector in Guinea-Bissau and to promote national reconciliation in Sierra Leone. The Commission's success in those different spheres would depend to a great extent on the cooperation of national authorities. In more general terms, the Commission must play a stronger advisory role in support of peacekeeping operations. That would be fully explored during the debate organized by the French presidency of the Security Council on 24 February.

31. To become more effective and flexible, the Commission must also improve its working methods and its activities on the ground. The 2010 review must enable the Commission to meet fully the objectives established for it, both on the ground and in New York. The review must be full and objective, to arrive at an exhaustive identification of the Commission's strengths and weaknesses. France hoped that the process would take place in an effective and coordinated manner, and would give the Commission the influence it needed to play a broader role in peacebuilding.

32. **Mr. Parham** (United Kingdom) said that the key issues for 2010 would be the review process, the implementation of the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding and work to improve peacekeeping and peacebuilding linkages. The Commission had a vital

role to play in all of those areas, and the work of the Peacebuilding Support Office would also be crucial. More important, progress must be achieved in each of the countries on the Commission's agenda, related to the elections in Burundi and support for economic recovery and reintegration there, to elections and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Central African Republic, to security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, and to continued consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone.

33. Work on the ground must continue during the review process, and the Commission must continue to move forward while it was under way. No new countries had been added to the agenda for over 18 months, and clearly, more countries could benefit from the Commission's advice and support. Any new referral must be considered in a positive light, and the Organizational Committee's work in late 2009 must be taken into account in that respect. To maximize its relevance, the Commission must align its work with that of other United Nations organs; the Chairperson should meet with the President of the Security Council on a monthly basis, and also hold regular meetings with the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

34. To help ensure real progress in the implementation of the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding, the next update report must not only reflect discussions held in New York but also demonstrate how improvements to the United Nations response were making measurable impacts on the ground. There must be greater clarity regarding the division of roles and responsibilities within the United Nations, and between the United Nations and the World Bank, so that a more predictable and accountable response could be delivered. That would also help to strengthen the linkages between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The 2010 review must ensure that the Commission had an earlier and more regularized role in advising on the peacebuilding components of peacekeeping missions, and must make recommendations on how the cadre of civilian experts could be broadened and strengthened, and deployed more rapidly. It must also ensure that international attention to a country emerging from conflict was maintained for the long term.

35. **Mr. Baheduradine** (Benin) thanked the African Union for supporting the election of Mr. Zinsou as Vice-Chairperson. Benin would spare no effort to make its modest contribution to the international community in the field of peacebuilding.

36. **Ms. Viotti** (Brazil) said that the Peacebuilding Commission, as a relatively new body in the United Nations system, was still finding ways to better assist the countries on its agenda. The review process would be a valuable opportunity to assess current shortcomings and to envision new possibilities for the work of the Commission.

37. The recent field trip to Guinea-Bissau had shown that while significant progress had been achieved, the country continued to need the assistance of the Peacebuilding Commission to surmount its many challenges and address the poverty areas defined in the strategic framework for peacebuilding. The country configuration was determined to do its best to make Guinea-Bissau one of the success stories of the Peacebuilding Commission.

38. **Mr. Normandin** (Canada) said that 2009 had been a very successful year for the Peacebuilding Commission. Not only had it built on initial success to further consolidate its role within the United Nations system but it also had taken great strides to improve its impact and its effectiveness. Crucially, the efforts to reach out to peacebuilding partners conducted under the leadership of the previous Chairperson were beginning to bear fruit. The Commission was growing in profile and increasing its cooperation with important actors such as the African Union, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Organization of American States and the European Union. It had developed stronger ties with civil society and academia and was approaching the upcoming 2010 review with unprecedented momentum. In addition, the Working Group on Lessons Learned, through many discussions, had demonstrated that the Peacebuilding Commission had a useful policy and best practices function.

39. **Mr. Morales Barba** (Mexico) said that as one of the three facilitators of the 2010 review, Mexico was encouraged by the dynamic exchanges within the Peacebuilding Commission, which demonstrated the membership's interest in the review process. Meetings held with the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly had led to positive cooperation with the facilitators.

39. **Mr. Rose** (Australia) said that his Government was committed to deepening its engagement with the United Nations including in the vitally important area of peacebuilding, and saw its membership of the Peacebuilding Commission and its recent announcement of a further contribution of US$ 6 million to the Peacebuilding Fund as tangible demonstration of that commitment.

41. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that Nepal was willing to contribute more by sharing its own experiences, as a country coming out of conflict and moving ahead towards sustainable peace and also as one of the major contributors to peacekeeping operations around the world. The Commission could further strengthen its work in ensuring the peace dividend through development in the aftermath of conflict by enhancing international support and the marshalling of much needed resources. National capacity and will were very important to sustain peace, development and the rule of law. The international community could lend a strong supportive hand wherever an acute gap was felt, especially by bringing all international and regional actors, stakeholders and partners together in a synchronized manner, through the Peacebuilding Commission, to create synergy in promoting peace, development and necessary institutions in conflict-ravaged countries.

42. **Mr. Gibson** (Egypt) welcomed the Commission's enhanced relations with regional organizations, especially the African Union. The 2010 review process would be crucial in making the Commission's work more relevant and responsive and addressing better the needs of the countries on its agenda.

43. **Mr. Puri** (India) said that the whole concept of peacebuilding was one of the encouraging creations of the United Nations. He welcomed the outreach activities undertaken by the Commission to achieve a better understanding of how the Organization interacted with the world at large.

44. India hoped that the 2010 review would result in the adoption of the necessary changes in the peacebuilding architecture to make it more responsive to the immediate and long-term needs of countries recovering from conflict. Ways must be identified of enabling the Commission to fulfil, in its entirety, its mandate articulated in General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005). National Governments must be involved in the peacebuilding process, and there must be deeply felt national ownership if achievements were to be truly delivered on the ground and if there was to be a peace dividend. India, with its unique experience of nation-building in a large, complex and most diverse setting, also had multifaceted capacities relevant to peacebuilding and development. It had shared that experience and expertise in a number of countries that had made the transition from conflict to peace, and would continue to make its capabilities in nation-building available to countries in post-conflict situations and to cooperate with the United Nations in its peacebuilding activities, including for development, social sector reform and rule of law and security.

45. The Commission's work must help countries make the transition from conflict to peace and must retain the interest of the international community in such countries, even after the peacekeeping phase has passed. All available resources geared towards peacebuilding in post-conflict situations must be harnessed in the shortest possible time to meet the needs of the countries concerned.

46. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Japan) said that the previous Chairperson had performed in an exemplary fashion, with noteworthy success in obtaining the contribution of Tokyo Gas to the visibility-raising work of the Commission.

47. Japan attached great importance to three challenges facing the Commission in 2010: its role in the area of policy coordination must be strengthened; for the country on its agenda greater cohesion was needed in policy development and humanitarian efforts. Cooperation with the Security Council and with the countries on the Commission's agenda must be better structured. He agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that the Commission's Chairperson must meet the President of the Security Council at least once a month. Non-agenda countries would require detailed discussion. Although the President of the General Assembly had appointed three facilitators for the 2010 review, the Peacebuilding Commission must also play an active role in it.

48. **Mr. Sukhum** (Thailand) assured the Chairperson of the Commission of Thailand's commitment and support to the 2010 review, especially in the key areas identified in his six-point agenda.

49. **Mr. Schwanger** (European Union) acknowledged the particularly challenging situation of the four

countries on the Commission's agenda from the political, security and development points of view. Supporting key elections, in both Burundi and the Central African Republic, and political processes, including national reconciliation, as in Sierra Leone, providing assistance for sensitive programmes such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as in Guinea-Bissau, promoting ambitious public administration and rule of law reforms, multiplying efforts to tackle widespread unemployment and fostering regional integration were some of the key areas to which the Commission must give priority.

50. To expand upon the significant work done thus far, determined efforts must be made to ensure that the Commission carried out its mandate of marshalling attention, advising and assisting in the implementation of integrated strategies and keeping the attention of the international community focused on sensitive situations.

51. The European Union saw the 2010 review as a welcome opportunity to reinvigorate the vision behind the Commission and to improve its fundamental role in providing support through more flexible, visible, coordinated and efficient mechanisms, to sustain recovery from protracted conflicts. The review must serve not only to renew the overall commitment to the cause of peacebuilding but also to ensure that the Commission was adequately equipped to perform its political mandate, enhance its focus on peacebuilding efforts and improve its leverage and efficacy.

52. **Mr. Lucas** (Belgium) associated himself with the statement by the European Union. Based on his experience as Chairman of the Central African Republic configuration, the consultative process of the 2010 review was in good hands, given the facilitators appointed by the Security Council and the General Assembly. To ensure that the review was successful, member States must be further involved in order to raise the impact of peacebuilding in the future and to shift the centre of gravity away from New York. The process must be open and transparent, seeking creative responses to issues in the traditional debates at Headquarters. The experiences of actors on the ground, on the four countries on the Commission's agenda, must be taken into account.

53. **Mr. Guerreiro** (Morocco) said that more than ever, Africa needed the assistance of the Commission in order to consolidate peace and to assist countries in rebuilding as States and nations.

54. **Mr. Park Tae-kook** (Republic of Korea) said that the review process was an opportunity to come up with new strategies. The outreach session in March would be very useful for brainstorming and an excellent precursor to the review. The joint meeting with the bureau of the African Union would be instrumental and useful. It was important to hold the joint meetings of the bureaux early in the year, and a similar meeting with the Security Council would also prove useful.

55. **Mr. Kastanaye** (Peru) said that in 2010, there must be greater flexibility in the Commission's work and significant changes in the interrelationship between peacebuilding and peacekeeping. He added that the Peacebuilding Commission was essential for Latin America.

56. **Mr. Vidal** (Uruguay) said that representatives of Uruguay had recently been privileged to visit one of the countries on the Commission's agenda and to witness the difference made by it and the United Nations as a whole on the ground.

57. **Mr. Wilson** (United States of America) said that the best way in which the Peacebuilding Commission could contribute to the 2010 review was to keep up its operational momentum so as to demonstrate that it could continue to deliver tangible results on the ground. It must show flexibility and creativity in thinking about its methods of work and about its strategies for those countries on the agenda, and encompassing new countries into its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.